

# PLANS FOR MODERN OFFICES FOR PHYSICIANS

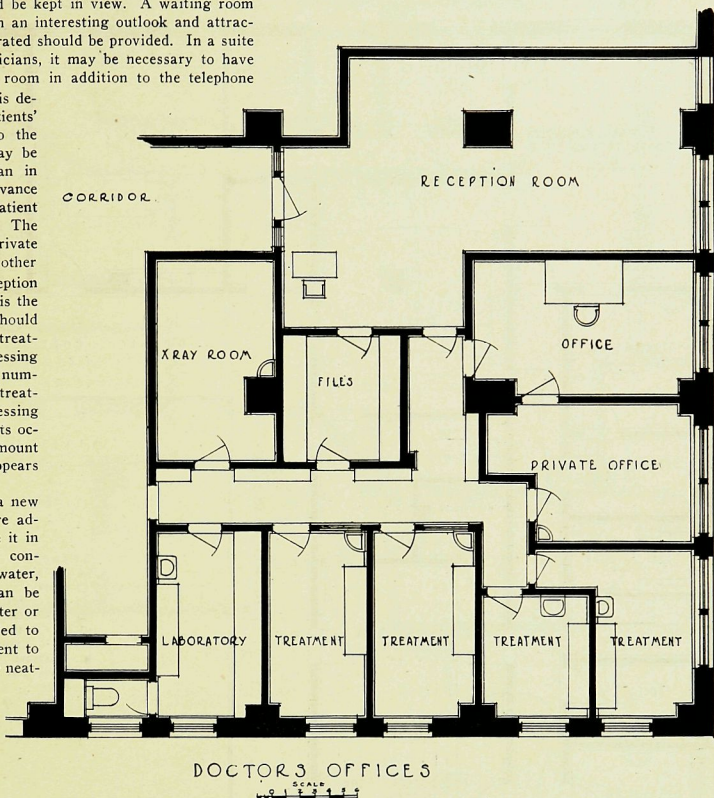
RICHARD E. SCHMIDT, F.A.I.A.

CHICAGO

In planning an office for the physician with a large practice, several points should be kept in view. A waiting room of liberal dimensions with an interesting outlook and attractively furnished and decorated should be provided. In a suite occupied by several physicians, it may be necessary to have a clerk in the reception room in addition to the telephone operator. In any plan it is desirable to have the patients' record files accessible to the clerk, so that records may be delivered to the physician in proper sequence and in advance of the admission of the patient into the physician's office. The necessity for an inside private corridor with an exit other than that through the reception room is obvious. There is the question whether there should be fewer examination or treatment rooms and more dressing rooms, rather than a large number of examination or treatment rooms with no dressing rooms. Both arrangements occupy about the same amount of space, but the latter appears to be more satisfactory.

To locate an office in a new building is obviously more advantageous than to locate it in an existing building, as conduits for wires, pipes for water, steam, waste and air can be concealed behind the plaster or under floors, and extended to points immediately adjacent to apparatus, resulting in the nearest arrangement; whereas in an old building many of these service pipes must be extended on the face of the walls, resulting in disfigurement and requiring additional labor to keep them in a presentable condition. When a physician obtains a lease of office space while the building is in an early stage of construction, the wiring, plumbing and heating pipes and other work can be installed in concealed places without the loss caused by alteration of existing work. Furthermore, outlets may be placed immediately adjacent to the equipment, and there are no unsightly pipe extensions.

The selection of materials for walls, floors and finish depends on the use of the offices. For treatment or surgical work, those standard for hospital work should be used; if the offices are purely consulting or medical, any furnishing or finish suitable for high grade business offices will be satisfactory.



RICHARD E. SCHMIDT GARDEN & MARTIN, 104 S. MICHIGAN AVE.  
ARCHITECTS. CHICAGO.

Fig. 1.—Physician's suite. The special features here are the number of treatment rooms with absence of dressing rooms, placing of instrument cases in corridor, and proximity of file room to reception room attendant's desk.

In the physician's suite illustrated in Figure 1, the entire floor (1,635 square feet) is tiled with 1¼ inch white ceramic mosaic tile, with rugs in the waiting room and in the private office. The walls and ceilings of the private corridor and of the treatment rooms are finished in gloss white enamel. The long walls of the filing room back of the bookkeeper's desk are filled with steel safes for records. In the private corridor are 25 lineal feet of instrument cabinets, extending from floor to ceiling. These cabinets have sliding doors and a unique arrangement by which instruments are suspended from metal bars and placed in regular order, according to their size.

Instruments arranged in this way are found more quickly than if lying on shelves or in drawers.

The roentgen-ray room is arranged for complete roentgenologic treatment; it also contains a plate display box. The laboratory is equipped with microscope stand, centrifuge, constant temperature water bath, gas and electric sterilizer, refrigerator, incubator, water still, and specimen and other

graphic room, fluoroscopic room, dark room, and toilet and dressing rooms. There are two laboratories, one of which has a separate dark room and a small room for metabolism tests. This small room is equipped with couch and respiration apparatus. The laboratory is equipped with autoclave, still, centrifuge, incubator, etc. The several offices are equipped with call buttons, buzzers and intercommunicating

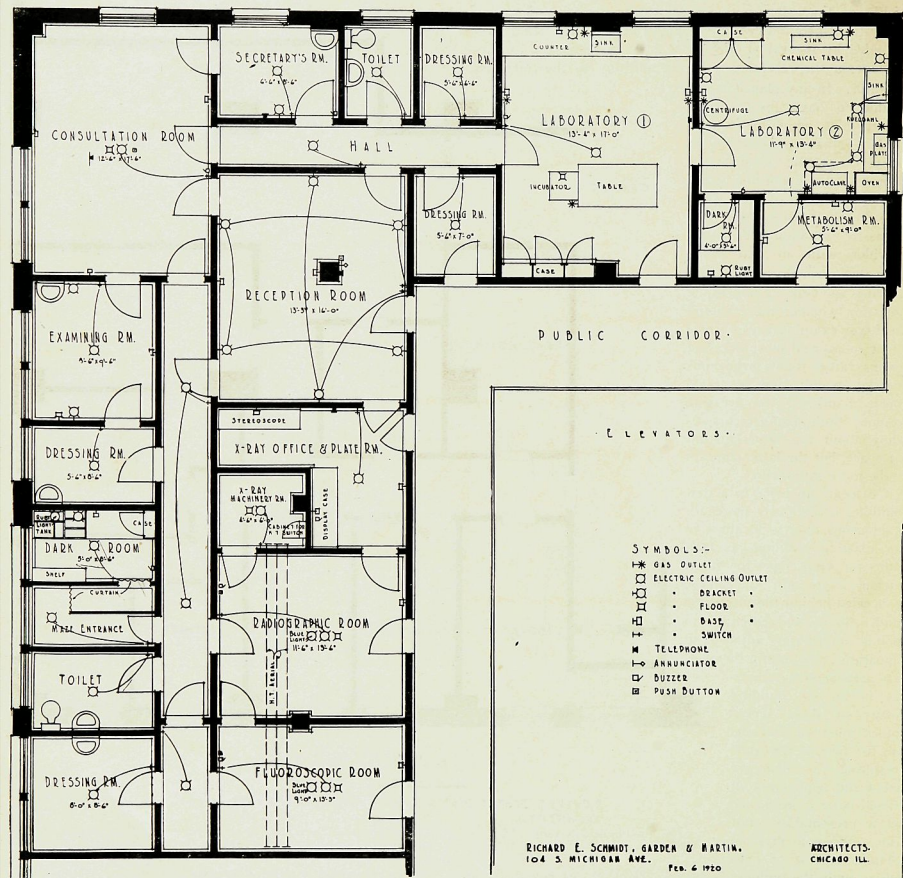


Fig. 2.—Noteworthy features here are the liberal size of the laboratories, roentgen-ray, consultation and reception rooms, and the arrangement of roentgen-ray rooms and auxiliaries.

cabinets. All of the treatment rooms in this suite have running water and modern enameled metal equipment and furniture.

The office illustrated in Figure 2 is located in a new office building where the space permitted an excellent and liberal arrangement. The roentgen-ray department has a suite consisting of office and plate room, machine room, roentgeno-

graphic room, fluoroscopic room, dark room, and toilet and dressing rooms. The installation of running water in the laboratory and dark room sinks is unusually liberal. The conveniences and appointment will obviously be appreciated by the public and by the physician, because of the facility with which service can be rendered.

Figure 3 shows how a suite of offices was planned for an existing building. This group of offices accommodates four



specialists representing, respectively, medicine, surgery, dentistry and eye, ear, nose and throat. Each office is completely furnished with the equipment adapted to its particular service. It will be noticed that three of the suites have patients' dressing rooms with double exits. The private corridors

furnish necessary intercommunication and exit from the office. One of the important features in connection with this group of offices is an exceptionally large and attractive reception room.

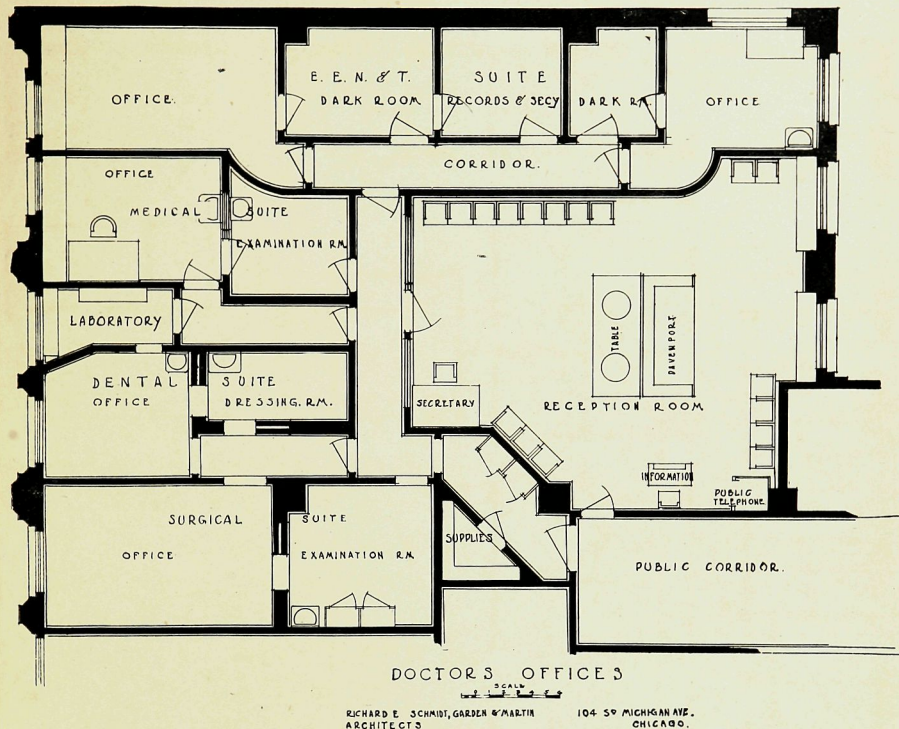


Fig. 3.—Suite of offices for four specialists. Note the liberal dimensions of the reception room, also convenient arrangement of eye, ear, nose and throat suite for eye work.

Reprinted from *The Journal of the American Medical Association*  
Aug. 28, 1920, Vol. 75, pp. 627-629

Copyright, 1920  
American Medical Association, 535 N. Dearborn St., Chicago